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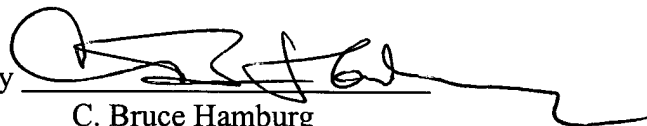
REMARKS

The reference numbers have been deleted from the claims in accordance with preferred U.S. practice and a typographical error has been corrected in claim 2.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. - Appendix

APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS

1. (Amended) A rechargeable battery comprising:

an electrode plate group [(10)] including a positive electrode plate [(1)], in which a positive electrode material [(1a)] is attached to a current collector [(1b)], a negative electrode plate [(2)], in which a negative electrode material [(2a)] is attached to a current collector [(2b)], the positive and negative electrode plates being superimposed with an intervening separator [(3)] therebetween, wherein the current collector of one or other of the positive electrode plate and the negative electrode plate is projected on at least one side of the electrode plate group [(10)] for forming by itself a flat plane [(11, 12)] on one side of the electrode plate group;

an electrolyte;

a battery container [(4)] in which the electrode plate group and the electrolyte are accommodated; and

a current collecting plate [(8, 9)] joined to the flat plane [(11, 12)] formed at one side of the electrode plate group.

2. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 1, wherein the positive electrode plate [(1)] and the negative electrode plate [(2)] are wound in spiral fashion with the separator [(3)] interposed therebetween, with their current collectors [(1b, 2b)] being respectively projected at opposite ends of the electrode plate group [(10)] thereby forming respective

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projected portions, and flat planes [(11, 12)] are formed at opposite ends of the electrode plate group by pressing said projected portions of the current [correctors] collectors at opposite ends of the electrode plate group in directions along the winding axis of the electrode plate group.

3. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 2, wherein the current collecting plate [(8, 9)] is arranged in contact with each of the flat planes [(11, 12)], and is laser-welded in the radial direction at a plurality of locations in the circumferential direction.

4. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the current collecting plate [(8, 9)] is formed with a plurality of ribs [(16)] thereon such as to protrude towards the projected portions of the current collectors [(1b, 2b)], the flat planes [(11, 12)] being formed by pressing said ribs [(16)] against the projected portions of the current collectors [(1b, 2b)], and the current collecting plate [(8, 9)] is welded to each of the current collectors [(1b, 2b)] at said ribs [(16)].